



NEBRASKA INFORMATION  
TECHNOLOGY COMMISSION

TECHNICAL STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES

XX-XXX Internet GOV Domain Naming Convention

Category	<b>E-Government</b>
Title	<b>Internet GOV Domain Naming Convention</b>
Number	<b>XX-XXX</b>

Applicability	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>State Government Agencies</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All..... <b>Standard</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Excluding: _____..... <b>Not Applicable</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>State Funded Entities</b> - All entities receiving state funding for matters covered by this document..... <b>Not Applicable</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Other: Local Government Entities</b> ..... <b>Standard</b>
	<b>Definitions:</b> <b>Standard</b> - Adherence is required. Certain exceptions and conditions may appear in this document, all other deviations from the standard require prior approval of <u>DAS - Division of Communications</u> . <b>Guideline</b> - Adherence is voluntary.

Status	<input type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Draft <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
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## 1.0 Technical Standard

State agencies must use the Nebraska.gov and ne.gov domain names, in addition to any other Internet domain names, assigned to a computer which hosts their primary web site or home page. The naming convention for state agencies appears in §2.5 below.

Local governments choosing to utilize the .gov address must follow the naming convention set forth in § 2.6 below.

## 2.0 Purpose and Objectives

### 2.1 Overview

The State of Nebraska is the owner of the Nebraska.gov and ne.gov domains. The use of these domains to date has been primarily for the Nebrask@ Online state portal and second-level portals (NOL for Business, State Employees, Education and Citizens). The purpose of these guidelines is to provide for consistent use of the Nebraska.gov and ne.gov domains by state agencies and local government. For purposes of illustration, the proposed guidelines listed below are shown using ne.gov, but would also apply to nebraska.gov.

### 2.2 Background

The Federal Networking Council and the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) delegated jurisdiction of the Internet GOV (dot-gov) domain to the federal General Services Administration (GSA) in 1997. On March 28, 2003, the GSA published a final rule for making the dot-gov domain available to state and local governments. The final rule (41 CFR Part 102-173) addresses the registration of second-level domain names used in the Internet GOV domain. This registration process assures that the assigned domain names are unique worldwide. Only federal agencies, state governments, local governments, and Native Sovereign Nations may use the Internet GOV domain.

### 2.3 Who Authorizes Domain Names?

For State and local governments, GSA will accept authorization from appropriate state or local officials. For States, GSA will accept authorization from the Office of the Governor or designee. The Governor has designated the state's Division of Communications (DOC) to be the official registrant for Internet domain names on behalf of the State of Nebraska. This includes the [www.state.ne.us](http://www.state.ne.us) and the dot-gov domain names. By agreement with the DOC, Nebrask@ Online will accept requests for assignment of domain names under the Nebraska.gov and ne.gov domains.

For local government, GSA will accept registrations from the mayor (for cities or towns), county commissioner (for counties) or highest ranking IT official. For third-level domain names using Nebraska.gov or ne.gov, the DOC and Nebrask@ Online will accept requests from the highest ranking elected official or the appropriate administrator for the local government entity.

### 2.4 Is There a Registration Charge for Domain Names

The DOC and Nebrask@ Online will not charge a fee to register third-level domain names for Nebraska.gov and ne.gov.

## 2.5 What is the Naming Convention for State Agencies?

State agencies shall use the (agency abbreviation).ne.gov format shown below for their home page. In addition, state agencies may use one or more of the following formats for third-level names within the Nebraska.gov and ne.gov domains:

(Agency Abbreviation).ne.gov	(Example: DAS.ne.gov)
(Partial Agency Name).ne.gov	(Example: AdministrativeServices.ne.gov)
(Division Name).ne.gov	(Example: CommunicationsDivision.ne.gov)
(Program Name).ne.gov	(Example: NVCN.ne.gov)

DOC and Nebrask@ Online will use the following rules to resolve potential conflicts between agencies:

- 2.5.1 First priority shall go to the commonly used agency abbreviation.
- 2.5.2 Second priority shall go to the program name, if it is in wide use or has the potential to be widely used by the general public or a large number of constituents of the program.

DOC and Nebrask@ Online will have exclusive use of extensions to the second-level domain names. Examples include [www.ne.gov/citizen](http://www.ne.gov/citizen) and [www.ne.gov/business](http://www.ne.gov/business).

## 2.6 What is the Naming Convention for Local Government?

The format for third-level domain names for cities is [www.cityname.ne.gov](http://www.cityname.ne.gov). (Example: [www.lincoln.ne.gov](http://www.lincoln.ne.gov))

The format for third-level domain names for counties is [www.countynamecounty.ne.gov](http://www.countynamecounty.ne.gov). (Example: [www.lincolncounty.ne.gov](http://www.lincolncounty.ne.gov))

The format for other local governments will incorporate either the description or acronym of the type of political subdivision into the third-level name. (Examples: [www.lowerplattesouthNRD.ne.gov](http://www.lowerplattesouthNRD.ne.gov); [www.lincolnpublicschools.ne.gov](http://www.lincolnpublicschools.ne.gov).)

Local governments may request other formats, if they do not conflict with other domain names or have the potential to create confusion. For example, [www.lpsnrd.ne.gov](http://www.lpsnrd.ne.gov) might be acceptable, but [www.lps.ne.gov](http://www.lps.ne.gov) would cause confusion.

DOC and Nebrask@ Online will use the following rules to resolve potential conflicts among political subdivisions or between political subdivisions and state agencies:

- 2.6.1 First priority shall go to the formats described above for state agencies, cities and counties;

- 2.6.2 Second priority shall go to the name that is in wide use or has the potential to be widely used by the general public or a large number of constituents;
- 2.6.3 Third priority shall go to the entity, which is first to request a third-level domain name.

### 3.0 Definitions

#### 3.1 Domain

Domain is a region of jurisdiction on the Internet for naming assignment.

#### 3.2 Domain Name

Domain name is a name assigned to an Internet server. Typically, one would apply this name to a domain name server. A domain name locates the organization or other entity on the Internet. The dot gov part of the domain name reflects the purpose of the organization or entity. This part is called the Top-Level domain name. The Second-Level Domain name to the left of the dot gov maps to a readable version of the Internet address. [Nebraska.gov](#) is a second-level domain name. The Third-Level Domain name maps to the left of the Second-Level Domain name. [Lincoln.ne.gov](#) is an example of a Third-Level Domain Name. The Domain Name server has a registry of Internet Protocol (IP) address numbers that relate to the readable text name.

#### 3.3 Domain Name Server

Domain name server is the computer that provides pointers from the domain name to the actual computers.

#### 3.4 Dot-gov

Dot-gov refers to domain names ending with a “.gov” suffix. The Internet GOV domain is another way of expressing the collection of dot-gov domain names.

#### 3.5 Internet GOV Domain.

Internet GOV Domain refers to the Internet top-level domain “dot-gov” operated by the federal General Services Administration for the registration of U.S. government-related domain names. In general, these names reflect the organization names in the Federal Government and non-Federal governmental entities in the United States. These names are now being used to promote government services and increase the ease of finding these services.

### 4.0 Related Policies, Standards and Guidelines

Federal Management Regulation, Internet GOV Domain, Final Rule – 41 CFR Part 102-173 ([http://www.nic.gov/final\\_rule\\_102.html](http://www.nic.gov/final_rule_102.html)).